

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21(canceled, without prejudice).

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method of operating voice traffic bearing packet switched network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, a call originated from a voice terminal connected to outside the packet-switched network, the voice terminal being communicatively connected to the gateway for communication to the gateway of the call, the call comprising a call initiation information and the call initiation information comprising a call destination identifier for a call destination originated from the voice terminal;

packetizing the call initiation information at the gateway, if the call is not packetized as received by the gateway;

querying by the gateway over the packet-switched network to a gatekeeper, the gatekeeper controls communication of the call over the packet-switched network;

responding by the gatekeeper to the gateway over the packet-switched network, in respect of the step of querying by the gateway, with a network address for a centralized feature platform, the centralized feature platform capable of performing a call service for the call;

directing the packetized call initiation information by the gateway, in response to the gatekeeper, over the packet-switched network, to the a centralized authentication

~~service feature platform having the network address connected to the gateway by the packet-switched network, to communicatively connect the gateway and the authentication service via the packet-switched network per network protocols;~~

~~determining by the centralized feature platform if the call service should be performed for the call by the centralized feature platform;~~

~~performing the call service by the centralized feature platform for the call, if the centralized feature platform determines that the call service applies for the call;~~

~~skipping the step of performing if the centralized feature platform determines that the call service does not apply for the call;~~

~~requesting by the centralized feature platform a network routing information for the call from the gatekeeper, after either of the step of performing and the step of skipping, respectively, as applicable for the call;~~

~~responding by the gatekeeper with a network destination address for the call, whereby: (i) if the call is permissible, the network destination address corresponds to the call destination identifier, and (ii) if the call is not permitted, the network destination address does not correspond to the call destination identifier;~~

~~upon authentication by the authentication service, dissociating the call from the centralized feature platform after the step of responding authentication service, by hand-off of the call to the packet-switched network;~~

~~routing the call, dissociated from the centralized feature platform, by over the packet-switched network per network protocols, to the via a network destination address for the call destination identifier, if authentication succeeds; and~~

connecting the call if the call is permitted, by the packet-switched network per network protocols via the network destination address for the call destination identifier, between the gateway and a target device corresponding to the call destination of the call destination identifier; and

~~wherein the steps of routing and connecting the call by the packet switched network per network protocols, employ the packetized call initiation information, including the call destination identifier, to effect the call between the target device and the gateway.~~

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method of operating voice traffic bearing packet switched network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, an information stream including encoded voice-band traffic of a call, the information stream comprising a destination identifier for a target device for voice traffic between the gateway and the target device;

querying by the gateway to a gatekeeper, the gatekeeper routes the call on the packet-switched network;

responding by the gatekeeper to the gateway, with a network address for a centralized feature platform;

directing the ~~information stream~~ call to an authentication ~~a~~ the centralized feature platform service;

authenticating a credential associated with the call, to determine whether a call service should be provided for the call by the centralized feature platform information stream using the authentication service;

upon authentication by the authentication service, performing the call service for the call by the centralized feature platform;

dissociating the centralized feature platform information stream from the call after the step of performing the call service authentication service by hand-off to the packet-switched network by the authentication service;

routing the call, after the step of dissociating, via the packet-switched network, unless the call service terminates the call, to either: (i) connect the call to the target device of the destination identifier via a network address for the target device, a next information stream including encoded voice-band traffic, to establish a connection over the packet-switched network between the target device, and (ii) connect the call to a separate device via a network address for the separate device, over the packet-switched network

the routing effected by the packet-switched network based, at least in part, on the destination identifier; and

receiving at the target device the next information stream via the packet-switched network;

wherein the step of routing is controlled by the packet-switched network, to communicatively connect the target device via the network address to the gateway.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of operating voice traffic bearing packet switched network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, a call comprising an information stream representable by encoded voice-band traffic, the information stream originating from a voice terminal communicatively connected to the gateway and the information stream comprising an identifier of a second voice terminal for receipt of the call;

directing by the gateway an encoded voice-band traffic, corresponding to at least a portion of the information stream, over the packet-switched network to a gatekeeper ~~an authentication service~~, the gatekeeper capable of routing the call;

authenticating the call voice terminal by the gatekeeper for a call service, via the encoded voice-band traffic;

upon authentication of the call by the gatekeeper for ~~by the authentication call~~ service, directing the call to a centralized feature platform for the call service;

performing the call service for the call by the centralized feature platform;

dissociating the centralized feature platform from the call after the step of performing the call service ~~communicative connection between the authentication service and the gateway by hand-off of the encoded voice-band traffic to the packet-switched network~~;

next directing the encoded voice-band traffic of the call over the packet-switched network to a target device, wherein the packet-switched network routes the encoded voice-band traffic of the call step of next directing via the identifier for the second voice terminal;

further receiving at the gateway a next information stream representable by next encoded voice-band traffic, the next information stream originating from the voice terminal communicatively connected to the gateway;

next directing at least a portion of a next encoded voice-band traffic, corresponding to at least a portion of the next information stream, by the packet-switched network to the target device via the identifier;

receiving at least a portion of the next information stream at the second voice terminal communicatively connected to the target device, over the packet-switched network.

Claims 25-28 (canceled, without prejudice).

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the call initiation information comprises a telephone number of the target device.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the telephone number is a PSTN call number and the target device is a second voice terminal.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the target device is a second gateway, communicatively connected to a second voice terminal.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the call initiation information comprises a telephone number of the second voice terminal and the second voice

terminal is communicatively connected outside the packet-switched network to the second gateway.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the next information stream includes the destination identifier.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of: communicatively connecting a recipient voice terminal to the target device, based on the destination identifier.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of: receiving a voice message at the recipient voice terminal, corresponding to at least a portion of the next information stream.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method of servicing a packetized data voice call made over a packet-switched network, the network routes the packetized data voice call per network protocols and addresses, comprising the steps of:

initiating the packetized data voice call at a gateway to the network, the voice call includes an identifier of a call recipient;

receiving that call at a gatekeeper router of the network;

directing the packetized data voice call via the network, in response to the gatekeeper router, from the gateway to a centralized feature server capable of a call service for the packetized data voice call service authenticator;

determining authenticating the voice call by the centralized feature server whether the packetized data voice call is appropriate for the call service service authenticator, based on a caller information from the gateway;

handing off the voice call by the service authenticator, to the network; if the packetized data voice call is determined as appropriate for the call service, performing the call service for the packetized data voice call by the centralized feature server;

if the packetized data voice call is determined as not appropriate for the call service,

dissociating the centralized feature server from the packetized data voice call: (i) after the step of performing the call service, if appropriate for the packetized data voice call; and (ii) otherwise, after the step of determining the packetized data voice call is not appropriate for the call service;

routing the voice call by the network after the step of dissociating, from the gateway to a destination address of the network for the identifier; and

connecting the call between the gateway and the destination address by the packet-switched network via the destination address.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

directing a plurality of calls received at a plurality of respective gateways, in response to the gatekeeper, to the centralized feature platform for the call service.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

providing the centralized feature platform with capability to perform a plurality of different call services; and

performing at least one of the plurality of different call services for each respective call directed to the centralized feature platform, if the centralized feature platform determines that the at least one of the plurality of different call services should be performed for the call.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

providing the centralized feature server with capability to perform a plurality of different call services; and

performing at least one of the plurality of different call services for each respective packetized data voice call directed to the centralized feature server, if the centralized feature server determines that the packetized data voice call is appropriate for the at least one of the plurality of different call services.